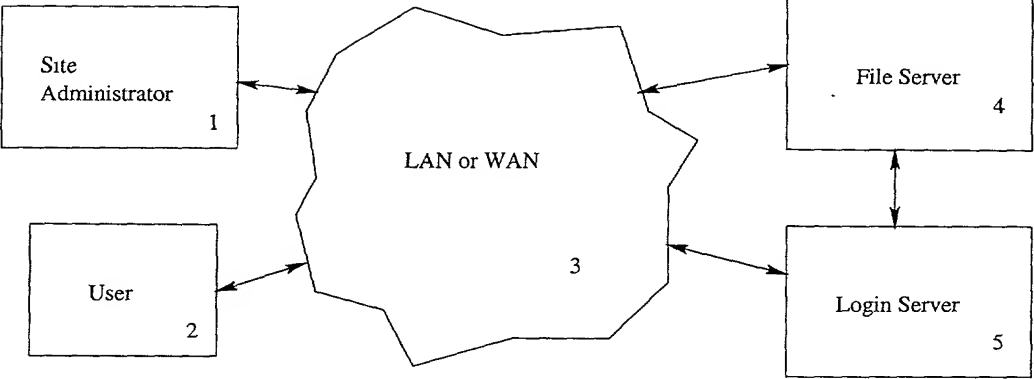
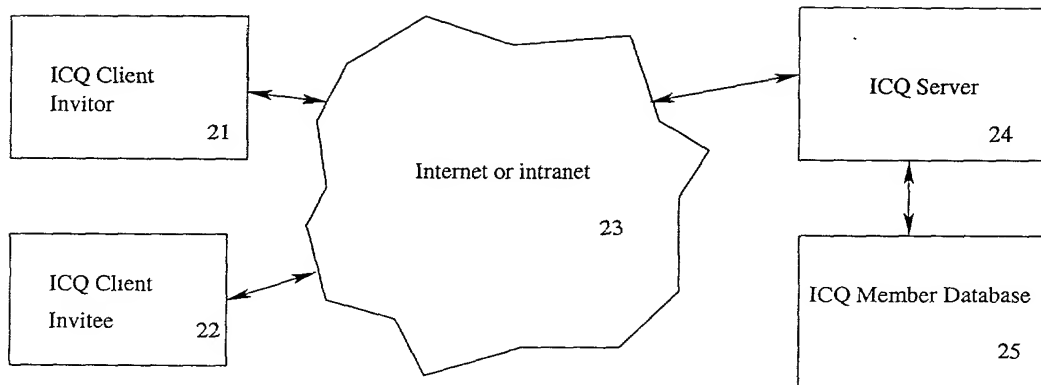


Fig, 1: Topological view of a traditional file sharing system



(Prior Art)

Fig. 2: Topological view of the ICQ member system



(Prior Art)

Figure 3: Topological view of the online photo community

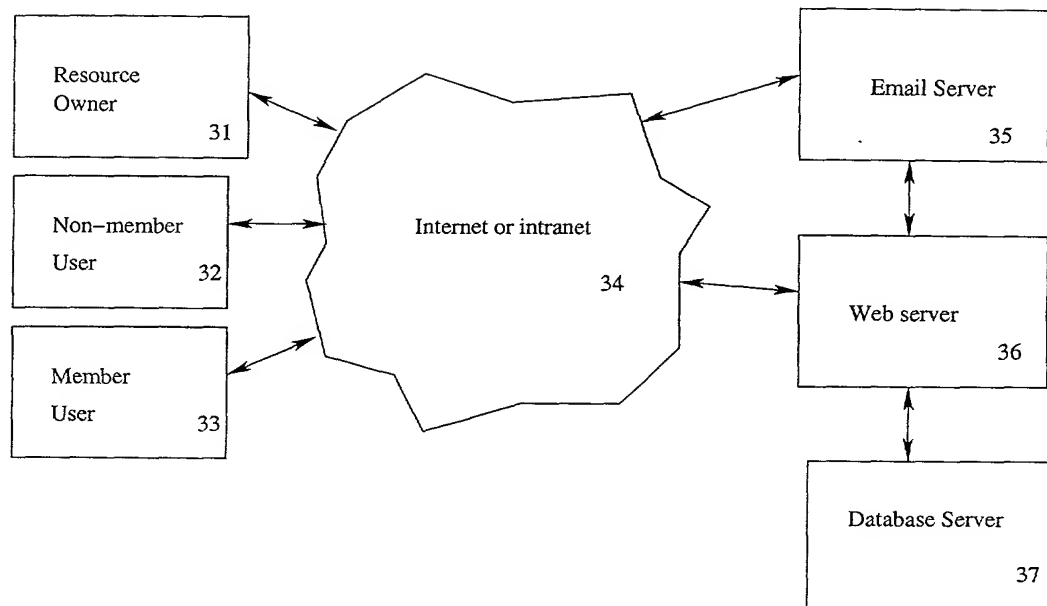
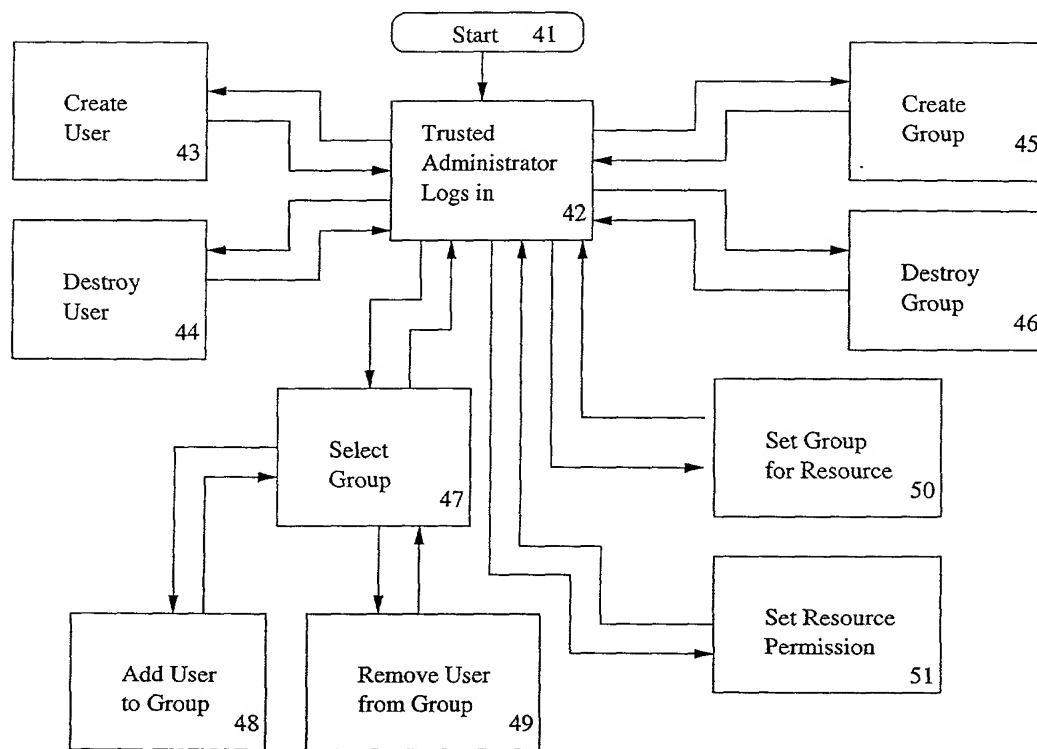
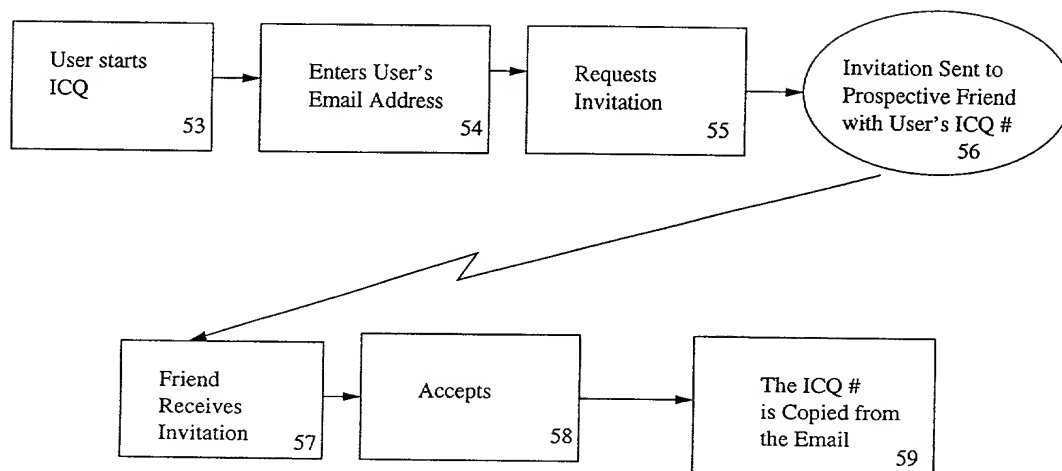


Fig. 4: State diagram of a trusted administrator group system



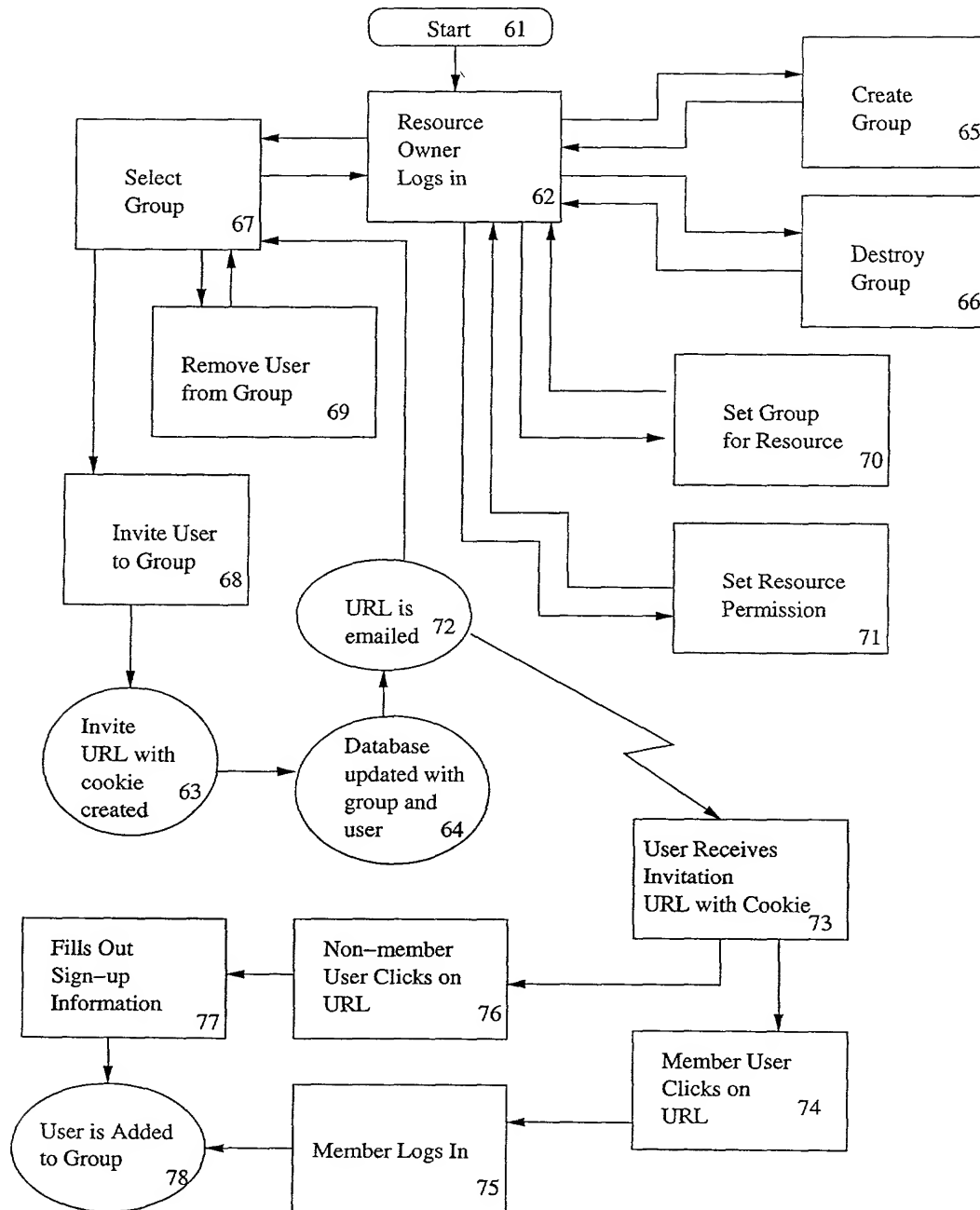
(Prior Art)

Fig. 5: State diagram of the ICQ member system



(Prior Art)

Fig. 6: State diagram of the online photo community



Member "dissident" logs in:



Member Login

User name:  
dissident

Password:  
[masked]

Login

Forgot your password?

← 100

FIG. 7

Member "dissident" chooses My Groups from the navigation bar:



**BANK™**  
IMAGES FOREVER

**Send "YourExpression"**  
personalized greetings inc.

Navigation bar: Upload, Photo Gallery, About Us, Contact Us, Log Out, Help

My Albums: [New Album] [Delete] [My Albums] [GO]

Items: 0  
Price: CDN \$0.00

My Albums  
My Groups  
Preferences

Search [ ] [GO]

Visit a User  
Username or E-mail [ ] [GO]

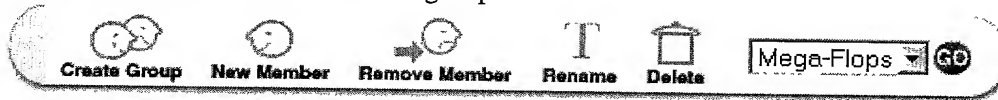
Albums:

- Album: First Album (11)
- Album: Jim's your uncle. (1)  
These are photos from my Dad's birthday party at Keith's.
- Album: hello (0)
- Album: Random (6)

← 102

FIG 8

Member "dissident" chooses create group:



Member "dissident" names the group "sample group":

## Create a New Group

Name:

106

FIG. 9

Member "dissident" adds new members:

## Add Members to Group:

You can enter e-mail addresses or pixBANK usernames in the following fields. We will send e-mail to each of these people to invite them to join your group. Please double-check all of your addresses. Where possible, it is better to use the person's pixBANK username.

dmwick@excite.c	
steve1	

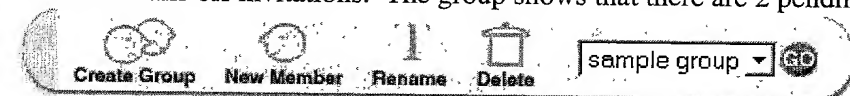
108

Note that both members who have signed up previously and non-members can be invited.

FIG 10



The site emails off invitations. The group shows that there are 2 pending group members:



Group Members	Shared Albums
Group "sample group" has no members. <a href="#">Invite New Members</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Album <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hello <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim's your uncle. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Random <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travels <input type="button" value="Update"/>

← 110

This group has 2 pending invitations

[Manage Invitations](#)

FIG. 11

← 112

To see which members have not yet joined, Manage Invitations can display pending invitations and allow for re-requesting or blocking members that weren't requested:

## Manage Group Invitations

☐ dmwick@excite.com  
☐ steves

Select All	Delete Selected Invitations
Resend Selected Invitations	Cancel

← 114

FIG. 12

Now non-member dmwick@excite.com receives an email:

**Date:** Thu, 08 Feb 2001 11:37:44 PST

**From:** "www-data" <www-data@opengraphics.com> [Add to

**To:** dmwick@excite.com

**Subject:** pixBANK Group Invitation

The pixBANK member 'dissident' has invited you to join one of his/her photo sharing groups. If you would like to join this group, please click on the following URL.

[http://demo.pixbank.com/jg.php3?id=163\\_3c74bf8c](http://demo.pixbank.com/jg.php3?id=163_3c74bf8c)

← 116

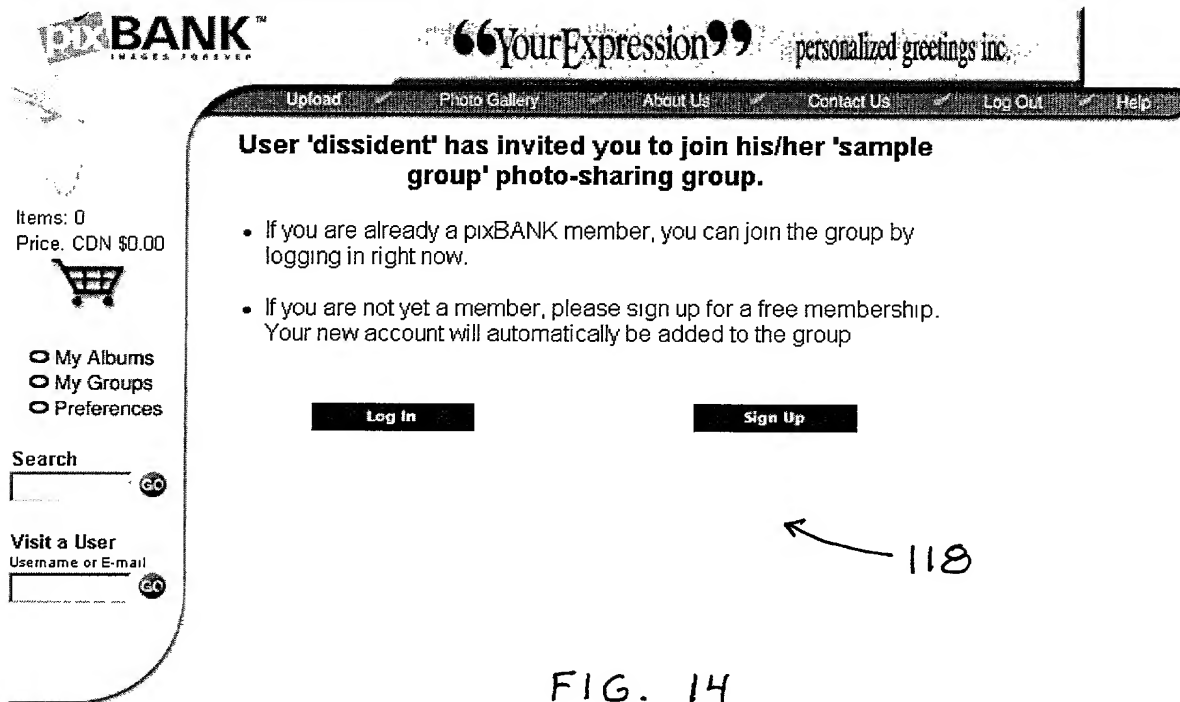
If you are not interested, please just ignore this e-mail.

Thank you,  
The pixBANK Robot

P.S. pixBANK is a website that facilitates on-line storage, sharing and professional-quality printing of your home photos. Please feel free to visit our site at <http://demo.pixbank.com/> if this service interests you.

FIG. 13

Non-member [dmwick@excite.com](mailto:dmwick@excite.com) clicks on the link:



If the users had an existing users account but registered under a different email address, then the Log In option would make sense. But this user needs to create an account via Sign Up:

## New User Information

Username:  \*

E-mail Address:  \*

Password:  \*

Re-type password:  \*

☐ Send me periodic pixBANK updates.

☐ Send system messages by e-mail.

[Sign Up](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

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FIG. 15

The non-member [dmwick@excite.com](mailto:dmwick@excite.com) becomes member "patent". Member "patent" views the list of available albums and finds the chared albums from dissident available:

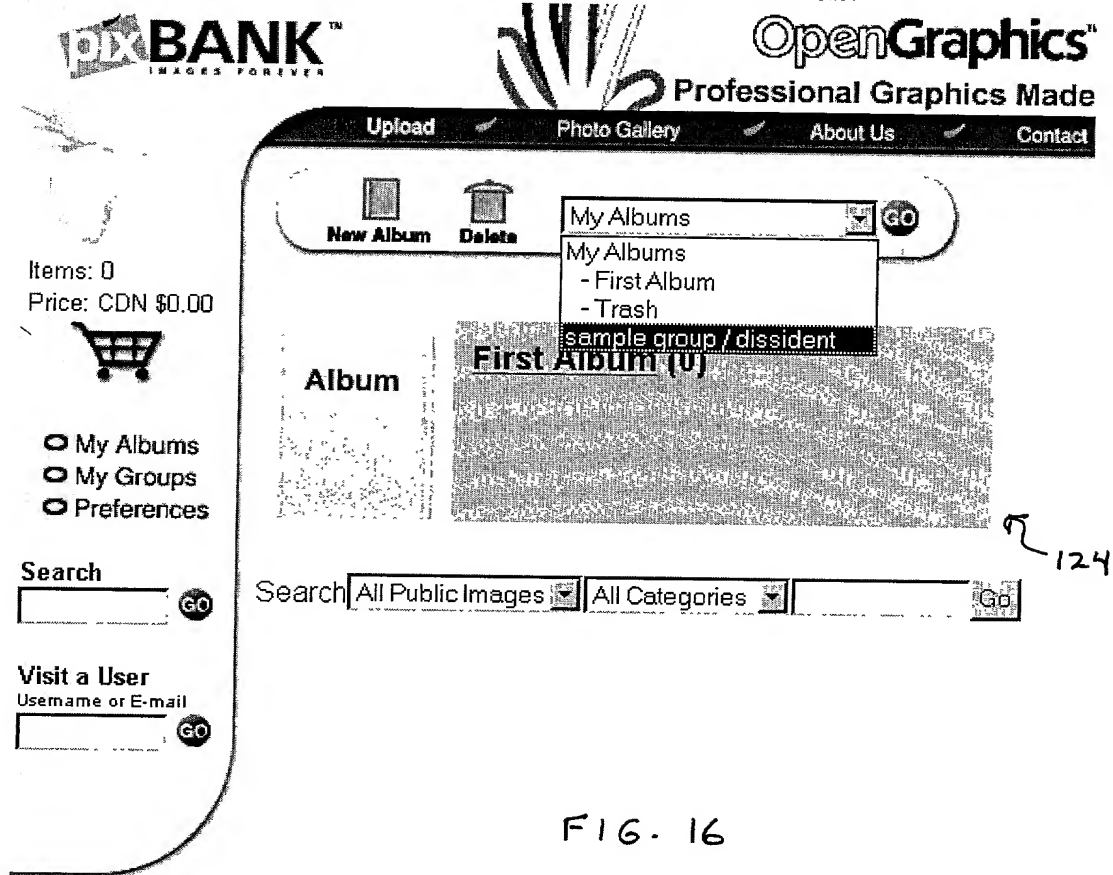


FIG. 16

Member "patent" can access and use the albums that belong to the group called "sample group" owned by member "dissident"

sample group / dissident

Album

First Album (11)

Album

hello (0)

Album

Jim's your uncle. (1)

These are photos from my Dad's birthday party at Keith's.

Album

Random (6)

Album

Travels (1)

FIG. 17

Now that member "patent" has joined the group, member "dissident" sees a system message:

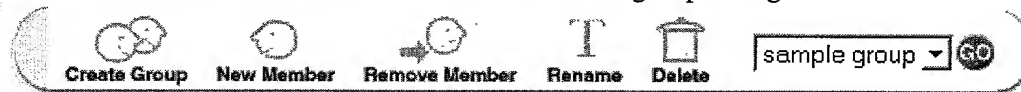


By choosing to view the system message, member "dissident" learns who has joined his or her group:

System Messages			
<input type="checkbox"/>	patent has joined your group	The pixBANK member 'patent' has accepted your invitation to join the group 'sample group' They should now be able to view photos in any of this group's shared albums.	Feb 08, 2001
Delete Selected Messages		Delete All Messages	Cancel

FIG. 18

Member "dissident" now sees the new member in the group listing:



Group Members	Shared Albums
patent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Album <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hello <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim's your uncle. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Random <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travels <input type="button" value="Update"/>

This group has 1 pending invitation

[Manage Invitations](#)

FIG. 19

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Also there is still a pending invited membership for the group. Finally, member "dissident" can remove users that are no longer welcome:

## Remove Group Members

Please select which members you would like to remove from group "sample group"

☒ patent

Select All Remove Members Cancel

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FIG. 20